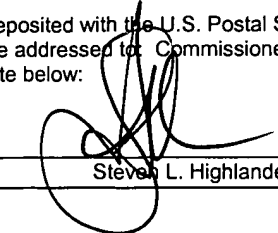




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-01450, on the date below:

December 16, 2003
Date


Steven L. Highlander

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Val. C. SHEFFIELD *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/612,809

Filed: July 10, 2000

For: THERAPEUTICS AND DIAGNOSTICS
FOR CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE
BASED ON A NOVEL HUMAN
TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR

Group Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: SCHARWTZMAN, R.

Atty. Dkt. No.: IOWA:042USD1/SLH

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO
OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 16, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

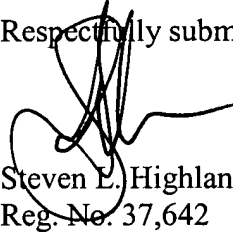
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicants petition for an extension of time of two month to and including December 16, 2003, in which to respond to the Office Action dated July 16, 2003.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, a check in the amount of \$210.00 is enclosed, which is the process fee (\$210.00) for a two-month extension of time.

If the check is inadvertently omitted, or should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an

overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Account No.: 50-1212/IOWA:042USD1/SLH.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven E. Highlander
Reg. No. 37,642
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 536-3184

Date: December 16, 2003